
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FEBRUARY 17, 1863.

Read twice, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ALDRICH, from the Committee on Agriculture, reported the following bill:

A BILL

To establish an Emigrant Bureau in connexion with the Department of the Interior.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That there shall be established in the Department of the In-
4 terior a Bureau of Emigration, the chief officer of which
5 shall be known as the Commissioner of Emigration, who shall
6 be appointed by the President of the United States, by and
7 with the advice of the Senate, who shall receive an annual
8 salary of the same amount as that now given by law to the
9 Commissioner of the General Land Office, and who shall have
10 the privilege of franking.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be a

2 chief clerk in said bureau who shall have the same annual
3 salary and be appointed in the same manner as the chief clerk
4 of the General Land Office. In case of vacancy in the office
5 of commissioner, or of his absence or illness, the duties of
6 said office shall devolve upon, and be discharged by, the chief
7 clerk.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary
2 of the Interior, on and after the passage of the act, shall
3 designate the number of additional clerks or assistants that
4 may be necessary to transact the business of the said Bureau
5 of Emigration, arranging them in classes, as is provided in
6 respect to the clerks of the various department bureaus and
7 offices by the act of March, eighteen hundred and fifty-three,
8 entitled "An act making appropriations for the civil and dip-
9 lomatic expenses of government for the year ending the
10 thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-four." The said
11 clerks to be appointed by said Commissioner, with the ap-
12 proval of the Secretary of the Interior, and to receive the
13 same compensation or annual salary as is designated by the
14 act aforesaid for each of the respective classes there enu-
15 merated.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the said bureau
2 have supervision of the whole subject of emigration. It shall
3 be the duty of the said Commissioner to devise such rules
4 and regulations, from time to time, and execute, perform, and

5 do all such acts and things as may be necessary to facilitate
6 and encourage emigration, for the protection of emigrants,
7 and for the collection and dissemination of information upon
8 the subject. The chief clerk and the other clerks or assist-
9 ants shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them by
10 said Commissioner; and the Secretary of the Interior shall
11 exercise the same general and supervisory and appellate
12 powers over the said bureau, and over the acts of the said
13 Commissioner and his subordinates, which he now exercises
14 over the various offices, bureaus, and boards embraced within
15 his department.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be
2 established in the city of New York an office to be known
3 as the United States Emigrant Office, the officers of which
4 shall be a superintendent and a clerk, which office and the
5 officers thereof shall be under the control and direction of
6 the Commissioner of Emigration. The said superintendent
7 and clerk shall be appointed by the said Commissioner with
8 the concurrence of the Secretary of the Interior. The object
9 of said office shall be to furnish information to emigrants to
10 carry out such measures as may be established by the bureau
11 at Washington for their protection against fraudulent imposi-
12 tion, and generally to perform and do all such matters and
13 things as may be prescribed or directed by the Commissioner
14 of Emigration. The Commissioner of Emigration shall pre-

15 scribe the duties of the said superintendent and clerk, and
16 no person shall be qualified to fill the office of superintendent
17 or clerk unless he be able to write and speak fluently the
18 German and French languages, and have some acquaintance
19 with the Swedish, Danish, and Flemish languages.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That no person shall
2 be competent to hold any office under this act who is or shall
3 be hereafter interested in any way, directly or indirectly, in
4 or with any corporation, company, association, or individual
5 engaged in the business of the carrying or transporting of
6 emigrants either from other countries to the United States or
7 its territories, or through any part of the United States or its
8 territories, or who shall receive or engage to receive any fee,
9 reward, or compensation from any such corporation, company,
10 association, or individual, or who shall accept of or receive
11 any fee or reward for services performed or for any benefit
12 rendered to any person or persons by means of his office.
13 Any person owning or having any interest, directly or indi-
14 rectly, in uncultivated land or lands in any State or Territory
15 of the United States, shall be disqualified for holding any
16 office or for discharging any duty under this act; and if it
17 shall appear to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Inte-
18 rior that any person is or has become incompetent or dis-
19 qualified for any of the causes above mentioned, it shall be
20 the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to remove him from
21 his office.